NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-5684 APRIL 3, 1978
DAVID LENT/JOHANNESBURG

NAMIBIA DEVELOPMENTS

ANNCR :

CONSULTATIONS ON AN INTERNATIONALLY ENDORSED NAMIBIA SETTLEMENT ARE REACHING A CRUCIAL STAGE IN THE TERRITORY'S CAPITAL WINDHOEK. VOA'S DAVID LENT HAS THIS BACKGROUND REPORT.

VOICE:

AS THE OLD SAYING GOES, IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO. IN OTHER WORDS, NO AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE UNLESS BOTH SIDES ACCEPT IT. THE TWO SIDES TO THE NAMIBIA DISPUTE ARE SWAPO -- THE SOUTHWEST AFRICA PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION -- AND SOUTH AFRICA. THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT SAID LAST THURSDAY AFTER RECEIVING NEW PROPOSALS FROM THE WESTERN FIVE COUNTRIES ON THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL THAT ITS ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSALS WOULD DEPEND UPON CONSULTATIONS WITH ALL INTERESTED PARTIES IN THE TERRITORY.

THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION HAS BEGUN, AND GETS INTO HIGH GEAR THIS WEEK. THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL OF THE TERRITORY, JUSTICE MARTHINUS STEYN, HAS ALREADY CONSULTED CHURCH LEADERS. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS WILL CONTINUE WITH JUSTICE STEYN TALKING TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES. SOUTH AFRICA'S FOREIGN MINISTER ROELOF BOTHA MAY ALSO FLY TO WINDHOEK TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSULTATION PROCESS.

IN WINDHOEK THE PRESSURE FOR AN EARLY DECISION ON THE WESTERN FIVE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSALS IS RISING. DIRK MUDGE CHAIRMAN OF THE DEMOCRATIC TURNHALLE ALLIANCE HAS SAID THAT THE POLITICAL PROCESS IN NAMIBIA CANNOT BE DELAYED ANY LONGER. SPEAKING OVER THE WEEKEND AT A POLITICAL RALLY, MISTER MUDGE SAID THE WEST HAD PROCRASTINATED LONG ENOUGH OVER THE NAMIBIA QUESTION.

HE EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT CONDITIONS IN THE TERRITORY WHICH HE SAID COULD LEAD TO CHAOS.

MISTER MUDGE'S REMARKS FOLLOWED THE ASSASSINATION LAST WEEK OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC TURNHALLE ALLIANCE, CHIEF CLEMENS KAPUUO. THE DTA IS A MULTI-RACIAL ALLIANCE INCORPORATING ELEVEN POLITICAL PARTIES FROM THE ELEVEN ETHNIC GROUPS IN THE TERRITORY. MISTER MUDGE SPEAKS CONFIDENTLY OF THE DTA POLLING FORTY PERCENT OF THE VOTE IN PROJECTED CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS WITH SWAPO POLLING ABOUT THIRTY FIVE PERCENT.

SWAPO MUST ALSO FINALLY DECIDE WHETHER THEY WANT TO TAKE PART IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS IN THE TERRITORY, MISTER MUDGE TOLD THE WEEKEND RALLY. THEY MUST DECIDE WHETHER THEY ARE A POLITICAL PARTY OR A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. IF THEY DECIDE THEY ARE A POLITICAL PARTY, HE SAID, WE WILL BE VERY HAPPY AND WE WILL INSURE THAT THEY ARE ACCORDED ALL POLITICAL RIGHTS AND SAFETY IN SOUTHWEST AFRICA.

JS/RCS